

## **CALA Testimony**

- **HB5481 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.**
- **HB 5485 – AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.**
- **SB 371 – AN ACT ALLOWING INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL SPECIALISTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO ADJACENTLY LOCATED AND COMMONLY OWNED OR OPERATED FACILITIES.**

The following represents written testimony from the Connecticut Assisted Living Association (CALA) regarding three bills being heard by the Public Health Committee today.

CALA is a statewide organization that represents the owners and operators of some 150 managed residential communities offering Assisted Living services to Connecticut's older adults and senior citizens.

### **HB5481 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.**

CALA opposes SB 5481 as written. The proposed revisions to the change of ownership process are overly burdensome. Additionally, many of the provisions in the bill would not be applicable to the Assisted Living Service Agency (ALSA) setting and appear to be specific to nursing homes, although they are not identified as such. No further action should be taken on this bill until such time as there can be further review and input from industry stakeholders.

Of particular concern in the bill is the deletion of the current requirement that applicants for licensure disclose direct and indirect ownership of 10% or more. The bill as written would require disclosure of any ownership interest, no matter how small. Such a change would be inconsistent with standards in the industry and unnecessarily burdensome. Additionally, the bill adds a number of new requirements as part of the application process that will unnecessarily burden potential applicants and greatly slow the approval process. These include requiring production of audited financial statements, accounts payable information and extremely detailed organizational charts. The proposed bill would also require a proposed new owner, as part of the application for

a change of ownership, to list all current owners of the institution. This information is already on file with DPH and creates an unnecessary burden on prospective buyers.

In addition, lines 110-121 appear to be directed exclusively to nursing homes and require additional clarifications as do the new requirements in subsection (3). CALA strongly opposes the authority given to the DPH Commissioner to deny a change of ownership application simply due to the existence of violations of regulations on the part of the outgoing owner.

CALA is greatly concerned that the proposed changes will impede the ability of organizations to conduct business within Connecticut and are unnecessary to ensuring that DPH has information it needs to make a determination on the appropriateness of a prospective owner.

Accordingly, CALA respectfully urges the Public Health Committee to take no further action on this bill until further discussion and input with industry stakeholders may occur.

#### **HB 5485 – AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.**

CALA is opposed to HB 5485 on the basis that the proposed language (lines 218-219) which seeks to amend the ALSA definition is tailored to the needs of one very small and unique provider and should more appropriately be addressed via the DPH waiver process as suggested by DPH.

#### **SB 371 – AN ACT ALLOWING INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL SPECIALISTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO ADJACENTLY LOCATED AND COMMONLY OWNED OR OPERATED FACILITIES.**

CALA supports SB 371 particularly for the flexibility the bill offers pertaining to how providers will utilize the services of an infection prevention and control specialist in the Assisted Living dementia special care unit setting.

CALA remains available to serve as a resource to committee members as these proposals evolves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christopher Carter

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